

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 02971 151244Z

41-S

ACTION SNM-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8806

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL ADANA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2971

STADIS/LIMDIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU, UN

SUBJ: POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM

REF: GENEVA 2516 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: TURKISH MFA IS PREPARING A STUDY RECOMMENDING THE FORMATION OF ONE CENTRALIZED AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR NARCOTICS AFFAIRS. REPORTEDLY, THE GOT MAY ANNOUNCE THE PRICE FOR POPPY CAPSULES WITHIN A MONTH REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THERE IS AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UN REGARDING A STANDBY COMPENSATION FUND. END SUMMARY.

1. HALIL DAG, MFA'S PRINCIPAL ACTION OFFICER FOR NARCOTICS AFFAIRS, TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 14 THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS PREPARING A STUDY RECOMMENDING THE FORMATION OF ONE CENTRALIZED AGENCY, ATTACHED TO THE PRIMIN'S OFFICE, WITH OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATION OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM. HE STRESSED THAT THE PROPOSAL IS STILL UNDER STUDY AND HAS NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN ACCEPTED WITHIN THE MFA. IN ITS PRESENT FORM, HOWEVER, THE PROPOSAL ENVISIONS ONE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH FUNCTIONS AS LICENSING POPPY FARMERS, ENFORCEMENT, ADMINISTRATION OF THE ALKALOIDS FACTORY AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE TURKISH NARCOTICS PROGRAM. DAG SAID IT CONFIDENTIAL

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HAD NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN DECIDED WHETHER THE PROPOSED AGENCY

WOULD TAKE OVER THE BUYING OF POPPY CAPSULES OR WOULD ACT THROUGH THE SOIL PRODUCTS OFFICE (TMO) AS ITS AGENT. HE ADDED THAT ONCE THE PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED WITHIN THE MFA, IT WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR APPROVAL.

2. DAY COMMENTED THAT IN GENERAL THE GOT HAS BEEN PLEASED WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE UN IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TURKISH POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM. HOWEVER, HE SAID, IT WAS "UNFORTUNATE" THE GOT AND THE UN HAD SO FAR BEEN UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE QUESTION OF A STANDBY COMPENSATION FUND. NEVERTHELESS, HE ADDED, NOW THAT THE NEW CABINET OF PRIMIN SULEYMAN DEMIREL HAD RECEIVED A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT PROBABLY WOULD ANNOUNCE WITHIN A MONTH THE PRICE TO BE PAID TO FARMERS FOR POPPY CAPSULES, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UN REGARDING COMPENSATION. HE SAID THE PRICE TO BE ANNOUNCED BY THE GOT, WHILE IT HAS NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN FINALLY DETERMINED, WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE LESS THAN TL15 PER KILO.

3. DAG ALSO REFERRED TO REPORTS FROM THE TURKISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON REGARDING RECENT STATE DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS TO CONGRESS IN CONNECTION WITH APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE US NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PRESENTATION BY CABLE AND FULL TEXT BY POUCH.
MACOMBER

NOTE BY OC/T: COORDINATED WITH S/SO, MR. TANNER.

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